

Connecticut Mastery Test Modified Assessment System (CMT MAS) Fact Sheet

The Connecticut Mastery Test Modified Assessment System (CMT MAS) is an alternate assessment for students whose disability precludes them from achieving grade-level proficiency on the standard CMT, even when provided with accommodations. Considered as a group, these students may perform significantly better when the statewide assessment is modified to make the assessment more accessible and instructionally meaningful. Students with disabilities who have an active individual education program (IEP) may be selected to participate in the CMT MAS through the planning and placement team (PPT) process. The CMT MAS is designed to assess grade-level curriculum standards. Students may be assessed with the CMT MAS in reading and/or mathematics. Below are details about each of these tests.

CMT MAS Mathematics Test

The CMT MAS in mathematics assesses students' knowledge of mathematics skills and concepts and their ability to solve realistic problems. The test is based on 25 content strands aligned with the content and performance standards delineated in the *PreK-8 Connecticut Mathematics Curriculum Standards*. The test includes multiple-choice and open-ended items. These open-ended items require students to write a response. Students are administered two 60-minute test sessions in Grades 3 and 4, and three 60-minute test sessions in Grades 5 through 8.

CMT MAS Reading Test

The CMT MAS in reading consists of two subtests: **Degrees of Reading Power® (DRP®)** and **Reading Comprehension**.

Degrees of Reading Power®

The DRP® test assesses students' ability to understand what has been read. The DRP® is a holistic, multiple-choice measure of reading ability. The DRP® is a 45-minute test that includes several passages on various topics. It is designed to measure a student's ability to understand nonfiction English prose on a graduated scale of reading difficulty. Students select from four answer choices in a cloze procedure to replace missing words from provided passages.

Reading Comprehension

The Reading Comprehension test assesses students' ability to read and understand both fiction and nonfiction passages. The Reading Comprehension subtest consists of narrative and informational passages on a variety of topics. The test is comprised of two 45-minute sessions. It includes passages with multiple-choice questions and open-ended questions that require students to write a response. A student's reading ability is reported in four strands: (A) Forming a General Understanding; (B) Developing Interpretation; (C) Making Reader/Text Connections; and (D) Examining the Content and Structure.

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Modifications Included in CMT MAS Reading and Mathematics

General Modifications Designed to Improve Accessibility

- Simple and brief sentence structure;
- Consistent and clear paragraph structure;
- Present tense and active voice;
- Standard typeface – Verdana Expanded;
- Type size standard – 12 point;
- Wide spacing – 1.25 between lines;
- High contrast;
- Margins flush left and rag right;
- Block paragraphs – no indentation;
- No columns;
- No background graphics;
- Increased white space on pages;
- Fewer items per page;
- More liberal use of bold face; and
- Limited use of italics.

Content-Specific Modifications Designed to Improve Accessibility

CMT MAS Mathematics Test

- Numbers simplified;
- Diagrams modified to make computations more evident and facilitate task comprehension;
- Most questions are multiple choice;
- Include embedded formulas and measurement conversions where appropriate;
- Use of bullets, spacing, organized lists or charts to facilitate readability and task comprehension;
- Eliminate grid-in items; and
- Bold key words and numbers.

CMT MAS Reading Test

Reading Comprehension

- Paragraphs/sentences are included in stem to eliminate going back and forth between text and question;
- Bold key words;
- Language is simplified and extraneous information removed when possible; and
- Addition of paragraph headings when possible.

Degrees of Reading Power (DRP®)

- Passages include sentences and paragraphs of varied lengths; and
- Four item response choices.